

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Responsive to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 22 and 36 have been amended. It is believed that claims 22 and 36 as currently amended comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 22 and 36 are independent claims. Each of these claims has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kinzer, U.S. Patent No. 6,476,443 in view of Hshieh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,763,915. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 22 and 36 both call for a strip which is transverse and electrically connected to the gate electrodes of the device. It has been acknowledged that Kinzer does not show such a feature. However, it has been stated that "Hshieh et al disclose in figs. 4A, 4C a MOSgated device comprising a conductive strip 130' extending transverse to a plurality of trenches and electrically connected to each of gate electrodes 120, said conductive strip being narrow such that it makes contact only with a portion of said gate electrodes."

Hshieh et al. show an "end point runner" 130' which is connected to the poly fingers of the gate electrodes in the termination area of the device. See col. 5, lines 24-27. The end point runner 130' is disposed inside a trench, which is perpendicular to the trench in which the poly fingers are disposed, as clearly demonstrated by Figs. 4B and 4C.

On the other hand, claims 22 and 36 call for the strip to be disposed "over each of said trenches". By disposing the strip over the trenches, the distance between the strip to the gate electrodes is reduced. The shorter distance has electrical advantages, such as lower resistance.

On the other hand, Hshieh et al. disclose an end point runner which is disposed far from the gate electrodes in the termination area, and is connected to the same by poly fingers, which would increase resistivity, among other disadvantages. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claims 22 and 36 are allowable over the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

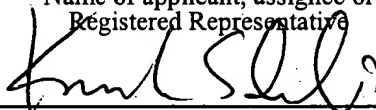
The remaining claims are dependent claims depending from either claim 22 or claim 36. Each of the dependent claims includes other limitations which in combination with those of its base claim are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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Signature

May 19, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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